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 Approved For Release 2001/03/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0081

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC Volkspolizei Dienststelle in Gera

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED]

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1A to 26 March 1951

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 25 June 1951

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

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1. Prior to 26 March 1951, the Volkspolizei Dienststelle (VPD) in Gera was located in the former technical plant at 100 Kepplerstrasse. The VPD numbered about 2,500 police. However, the installation was capable of quartering another 1,000 men.
2. The VPD in Gera was organized into a headquarters; 3 infantry Kommandos, with 5 Abteilungen to a Kommando; 3 Zuege to a Abteilung and 3 Gruppen to a Zug; 1 artillery Kommando; and 7 Sonderabteilungen, being engineer, signal-communications motorcycle, armored, mortar, AT artillery and heavy artillery units. One Gruppe had an average strength of 1 NCO and 9 EM, whereas one Gruppe of a rifle Abteilung was composed of 1 NCO and 12 EM.
3. Personnel of the VPD in Gera included:
 - VP Kommandeur Flur, (fnu), commanding officer.
 - VP Oberrat Meister, (fnu), PK officer.
 - VP Kommissar Erich Krause, officer in the PK section.
 - VP Oberrat Launroth, (fnu), chief of staff.
 - VP Kommandeur Pietsch, (fnu), director of training;
 - VP Kommissar Stoessel, (fnu), ordnance officer.
 - VP Oberrat Lueller, (fnu), administrative officer.
 - VP Oberwachmeister Anton Geminisky, interpreter.
 - VP Rat Johannes Pieske, commanding officer of 3d Kommando.
 - VP Kommissar Klein, (fnu), PK officer of 3d Kommando.
 - VP Oberkommissar Fischer, (fnu), commanding officer of 1st Abteilung.
 - VP Kommissar Oettel, (fnu), commanding officer of 2d Abteilung.
 - VP Kommissar Leissner, (fnu), PK officer of 2d Abteilung.
 - VP Kommissar Schwiedereck, (fnu), PK officer of 3d Abteilung.
 - VP Oberkommissar Helmut Rothe, commanding officer of 4th Abteilung.
 - VP Kommissar Schlums, (fnu), commanding officer of 5th Abteilung.
4. The 1st Abteilung of an infantry Kommando being an assault unit, was equipped exclusively with submachine guns; the 2d Abteilung, a rifle unit, with model 98-k carbines, 2 light machine guns and, for the sharpshooters, model 98-k carbines with telescopic sights; the 3d Abteilung, a light machine gun unit, with about 6 light machine guns, model 98-k carbines and model 08 pistols;

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Rev:	10-2

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the 4th Abteilung, a heavy machine gun unit, with 3 heavy machine guns, model 98-k carbines and rapid-fire rifles; and the 5th Abteilung, a mortar unit, with 3 mortars, model 98-k carbines, pistols and means of signal communication. Heavy weapons of the unit included 1 T-34 tank, 1 gun of about 150-mm, 1x122-mm howitzer, 1x88-mm gun, 2 Soviet 76.2-mm AT guns and, allegedly, 1 armored reconnaissance car. The unit was fully equipped with infantry arms, one for each policeman. Other infantry arms were stored in the ordnance rooms of each Kommando and in the central ordnance room of the VPD.

5. The ammunition was stored in about 16 bunkers, other bunkers being under construction. Ten bunkers for artillery ammunition were marked by a dark-red coat of paint.
6. On 2 January 1951, a new training period started, with the tactical training being conducted only in accordance with Soviet manuals. *

- 25X1X 7. Other VPDs [REDACTED] included two VPDs in Erfurt, one being an officer's school, the VPD in Weissenfels, the VPD (school) in Naumburg, the VPD in Gotha, the VPD (school) in Doebeln, the VPD in Loebau, the VPD in Zittau, the VPD in Torgau, the VPD in Grossenhain, the VPD in Zeithain and the VPD (tactical school) in Potsdam I. **

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment. A report supplied by another source at the same time confirms the substantial data on the VPD in Gera, including the names of officers. However, the other source estimating the strength of the VPD at 1,800 police is given more credence.

25X1A** [REDACTED] Comment. The VPDs mentioned agree with available information. It has not been determined whether the tactical school, which is probably located in the Garde Husaren Kaserne on Stalinallee in Potsdam, is the former VP School from Dessau-Kochstedt or an instruction course of the HVA for platoon leaders which was previously identified in Potsdam. The VP school for commanding officers was last reported to be located in Kochstedt in February 1951.

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